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REMARKS

The Applicant would like to thank Examiner Kaufman for the analysis set forth in the Examination Report.

The drawing is amended, per the attached Submission, to overcome noted informality contained therein. The new Replacement Sheet of formal drawings, accompany this Submission, incorporates the requested drawing amendment. If any further amendment to the drawings is believed necessary, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

The Abstract is objected to for reasons noted in the official action. The Applicant addressed this objection by entering a new Abstract which deletes the term "means are" and substitutes therefore —A refrigeration assembly is--.

Claims 1-3 and 5 present stand rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as being anticipated by Baker `343. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses the raised anticipatory rejection in view of the following remarks.

The Applicant addressed this objection by cancelling claims 1-4 and inserting the subject matter of claim 6 into claim 5. Such amendment is believed to overcome the raised rejection in view of Baker `343.

Next, claims 4 and 6 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as being unpatentable over Baker `343 in view of Teetsel `361. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses the raised obviousness rejection in view of the following remarks.

As claim 5, as amended, still contains the core features of claim 6, the Applicant must demonstrate to the Examiner that the subject matter of claim 5, as amended, distinguishes over the combination of the Baker `343 and the Teetsel `361 references.

The present invention is a miniature refrigerator, which has a built in flow channel and coupling. It is intended for use in dispensing water from a cardboard box with the cardboard box having a collapsible liner but, if the cardboard box is removed, it can be used as a miniature refrigerator.

In general, the Baker `343 reference is a dispenser used to keep a bottle of spirits at sub-zero temperatures, so that cold "shots" can be dispensed and the Teetsel `361 reference is a dispenser for cream.

It is respectfully submitted that using the cardboard box with the collapsible liner as disclosed by Teetsel `361 in the cooling dispenser as taught by Baker `343, would be contrary to the teachings of the Baker `343 reference. Baker `343 teaches maximizing surface contact between the wrap around cold pads 56 and 58 and the container 100 to improve heat transfer efficiency (see column 2 lines 12-24 and from line 55 of column 4 to line 3 of column 5). The objective of Baker `343 is to cool spirits to temperatures below the freezing point of water. The use of an insulated container diminishes transfer efficiency. Both the cardboard and the layer of air between the cardboard box and the liner act as an insulator. A cardboard box is clearly not the type of container that Baker `343 would select for use in his cooling dispenser to facilitate heat transfer through contact. That being the case, it is respectfully submitted that the suggested combination involves the exercise of hindsight. It is not a combination one skilled in the art would make. Teetsel `361 may be considered an alternative to Baker `343, as Teetsel `361 has its own cooling unit intended for use with a cardboard box (see Fig. 12 and column 6, lines 42-64).

It is also respectfully submitted that the proposed combination of using the cardboard box with collapsible liner disclosed by Teetsel `361 in the cooling dispenser disclosed by Baker `343 would not work. The flexible connector tube 56 of Teetsel `361, which is adapted to work with clamping member 50 (see Fig. 9), is not suitable for use in making a positive connection with the dispensing cooler as taught by Baker `343. Similarly, the threaded cavity 88 of Baker `343 which is adapted to receive a threaded top 80 of container 100 is not suitable for use in the combination. It is respectfully submitted that one cannot rotate a square container in a square close fitting cavity.

The Applicant asserts that the combination of Teetsel `361 and Baker `343 is improper as the following changes would have to be made in order to use the box with collapsible liner

disclosed by Teetsel `361 in the cooling dispenser disclosed by Baker `343 and there is no teaching in either reference to make the noted changes.

1. The shape and size of internal chamber 26 of Baker `343 will have to be changed to accommodate the exterior shape and dimensions of the Teetsel `361 box.
2. The mode of refrigeration will have to be changed or an inefficient heat transfer, contrary to the teachings of Baker `343, will have to be tolerated (as described above).
3. The flexible connector tube 56 of Teetsel `361 which is adapted to work with clamping member 50 (see Fig. 9) is not suitable for use in making a positive connection with the dispensing cooler and will have to be replaced.
4. The threaded cavity 88 of Baker `343 which is adapted to receive threaded top 80 of container 100 is not suitable for use in the combination and will have to be replaced. One cannot rotate a square container in a square close fitting cavity.

In summary, claim 5, as amended, sets forth in detail the invention that is illustrated and described. It is respectfully submitted that such claimed invention would not be "obvious" in view of a combination of Baker `343 and Teetsel `361. Firstly, there would be no motivation to combine the apparatus intended to chill spirits to sub-freezing temperatures of Baker `343 with selected portions of the cream dispenser of Teetsel `361. Secondly, the combination would not work without further modifications. Thirdly, the number and nature of modifications required to make the combination work are suggestive of the exercise of hindsight to drive the analysis.

In addition it should be noted that the coupling units of the liquid holding containers of both Teetsel `361 and Baker `343 would be considered a male coupling. The threaded top 80 and the neck region 82 of the bottle container 100 of Baker `343 is "received in" the threaded cavity of 88 of the stabilizing shoe 86 (col. 5, lines 51-56). In other words the male portion (the neck region 82) of the container is received in the female portion (the threaded cavity of 88) of the coupling device between the container and the housing.

Next, in Teetsel `361, the liquid container 45 is attached to the open end 58 of the connector 56. The connector 56 is inserted into a passage 70 which is in communication with the housing as best seen in Fig. 5, 8 and 9. That is, the male portion (the connector 56) connected to the container 45 is received in the female portion (the passage 70) of the housing.

The male coupling units of the liquid holding containers of both Teetsel `361 and Baker `343 are distinctly different than the female coupling unit of the cardboard container of the present application. As currently claimed, the container has a female coupling and the housing of the refrigeration unit has a male coupling which is received within the container to provide fluid communication therebetween.

In order to emphasize the above noted distinctions between the presently claimed invention and the applied art, the independent claim of this application now recite the features of "[a] liquid dispensing apparatus, comprising in combination: a cardboard box having a collapsible bag liner containing liquid, the collapsible bag liner having a frangible female coupling which is mounted on an exterior surface of the cardboard box. . . a male coupling positioned at the first end of the flow channel, the coupling being adapted to couple the flow channel with the female coupling on the cardboard box positioned within the cavity. . .". Such features are believed to clearly and patentably distinguish the presently claimed invention from all of the art of record, including the applied art.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the raised rejections should be withdrawn at this time. If the Examiner disagrees with the Applicant's view concerning the withdrawal of the outstanding rejection(s) or applicability of the Baker `343 and/or Teetsel `361 references, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate the specific passage or passages, or the drawing or drawings, which contain the necessary teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure required by case law. As such teaching,

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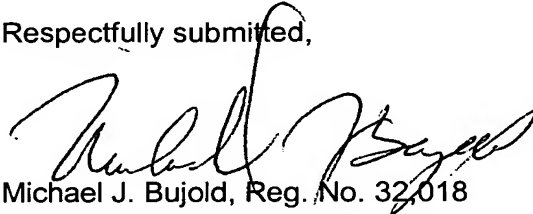
suggestion and/or disclosure is not present in the applied references, the raised rejection should be withdrawn at this time. Alternatively, if the Examiner is relying on his/her expertise in this field, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter an affidavit substantiating the Examiner's position so that suitable contradictory evidence can be entered in this case by the Applicant.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejections should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



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Annotated Marked-Up Drawing

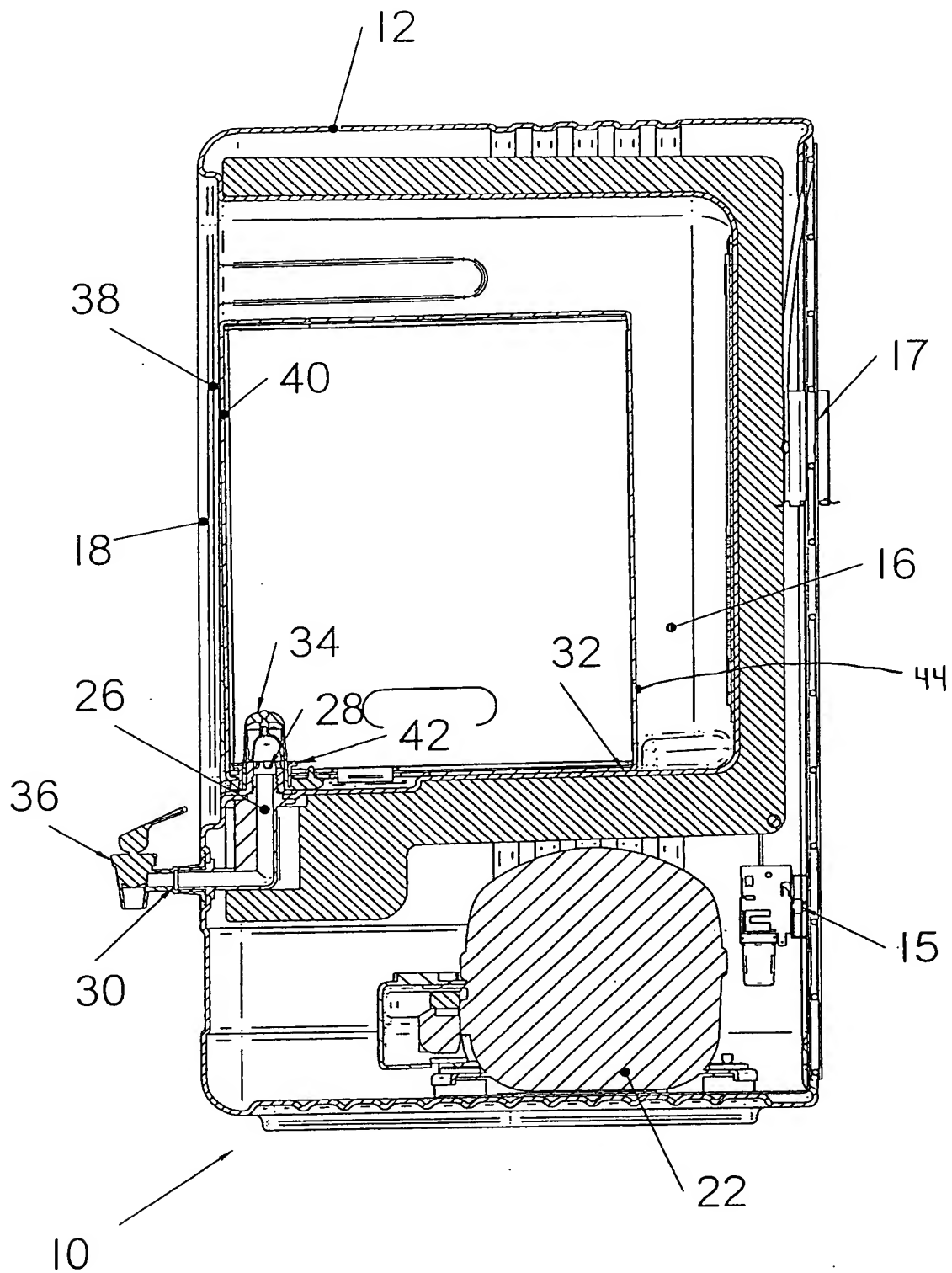


FIG. 3